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➤BOOK : NOTICES.◀

EINLEITUNG IN DEN TALMUD.*

This excellent treatise of seventy pages is an off-print of the article "Thalmud" in the second edition of Herzog's Real-Encyclopädie. In the preface the author states that it is his purpose to give from an objective and purely scientific stand-point, a bird's eye view, of the field covered by the "Thalmud;" and the testimony must be awarded him that he has fulfilled not only his promise, but also the high expectations warranted by the acknowledged eminence of Strack's scholarship. It is by far the best treatment the subject has ever received in an encyclopædic work. The arrangement is an admirable one, and leaves nothing to be desired. In eight chapters he passes in review briefly and yet, through the copious references which are given, exhaustively the divisions of the work, the arrangement of parts, the contents of the sixty-three treatises of the Talmud. Besides this, he gives a history of the compilation, chronological lists of authorities quoted in the Talmud, and closes with a practically complete bibliographical index. A feature of the monograph which is worthy of note is the consistency with which the method of transcription adopted by Strack is adhered to. In this respect it is a safe guide, although there are some objectionable points in Strack's system, notably the use of two and three letters to indicate *one* sound. But in almost every respect, the monograph is exactly what an introduction should be. Clear and concise, it is not overcharged with ballast unnecessary for the specialist and only confusing to the general student, and by confining itself strictly to the subject, equally free from private conjectures as well as from any bias, whether favorable or unfavorable.

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NOTES ON THE HEBREW TEXT OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS.†

As is stated in the preface, this "volume of notes was undertaken at the suggestion of Professor Driver, and is mainly intended for students beginning the Hebrew language. The notes are taken chiefly from the best German commentaries, and do not aim at originality." Including two brief appendices,—one on the structure of Genesis, and the other on the names of God,—there are 380 pages (7½ in. X 5 in.). The book contains notes, textual, grammatical and exegetical, given as briefly as was consistent with the author's aim, very seldom so briefly as to be unintelligible at the first reading. It is a summary of the opinions of the best writers; among commentators, the names of Dillmann and Delitzsch occurring most frequently; and among grammarians, those of Gesenius, Davidson, Stade, Ewald, for the etymology; and Driver and Aug. Müller, for syntax. The readings of the versions are given whenever likely to be of value in evidence. In commenting on difficult verses, the author frequently reserves his

* EINLEITUNG IN DEN TALMUD. By H. L. Strack. Leipzig, 1887. Price, M.1.20

† NOTES ON THE HEBREW TEXT OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS. With two appendices. By G. J. Spurrell, M. A. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1887. New York: Macmillan & Co. Pp. 380. \$2.50.